

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is submitted to more clearly establish that the individual user profile is associated with a list of one or more target electronic publications and in accordance with the method the user is provided with limited selective access to the list of electronic publications within the library database.

Support for the amendment can be found in the specification beginning at page 13, line 17. As indicated therein there is a list of text works (one or more electronic publications) associated with the access profile of the particular user. As indicated at page 14, lines 7-8 the user is only permitted to access the text works contained on the list associated with the user profile. It is therefore submitted that the amendment made to claim 1 is fully supported in the application as filed and entry thereof is deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

All of the claims of the application have been rejected as obvious over Hartrick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,920). The Office Action states that the reference discloses all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying details of the user profile. The rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Hartrick et al. is directed to a royalty payment system wherein the author or publisher of a softcopy book specifies the royalty amount he wants to be paid by

users who copy the book or individual chapters of the book. As indicated at column 4, beginning at line 44 the publisher includes royalty payment information either within the structured document text of the book or in a royalty payment information file.

The user of the Hartrick et al. system can obtain any soft copy book or part thereof within the entire library database of the publisher or author. There is no restriction placed on the access by the user so long as the user is willing to pay the royalty required in accordance with the royalty paying system which is the subject of the Hartrick et al. invention.

In the present invention, step (b) of the claimed process requires establishing a user profile database in the central computer for storing a plurality of individual user profiles. Of particular importance is that each individual user profile is associated with a list of one or more electronic publications which is selected from the entire set of publications referred to as a library database. One of the key features of the present invention is to provide restrictions on what the individual user can access from the library database. This is the purpose behind setting up a user profile associated with a particular list of publications.

By way of example, if the user is a high school student, the associated list of publications may be a list of five text books that the individual user is required to work with during the school year. This particular list of five publications will be only a

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small percentage of the publications provided by the publisher of the text books. The individual high school user is not permitted to gain access to other publications available from the publisher. The reason for this is that the present system is intended to (in the example of a high school student), provide a means of enabling students to do work at home without having to carry their particular list of text books home with them each evening.

Hartrick et al. provides no such system since the publisher's entire library of soft copy books is available to each individual user so long as they are willing to pay a royalty for each book that they access. Indeed, the Hartrick et al. system would not seek to limit a user's access to the entire list of publications offered by a publisher because to do so would result in lost revenue. To the contrary, the present system requires limited access and an association of a particular list of publications with each individual user.

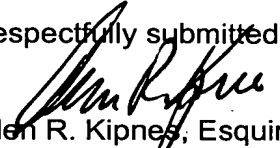
It is therefore submitted that Hartrick et al. does not teach or suggest the present claimed invention. Early passage to issue of the present application is therefore deemed proper and is respectfully requested.



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It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this matter. However, if any fee is due, it should be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0510.

Respectfully submitted,


Allen R. Kipnes, Esquire
Registration No. 28,433
Attorney for Applicant

Address All Correspondence to:

Allen R. Kipnes, Esquire
WATOV & KIPNES, P.C.
P.O. Box 247
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
(609) 243-0330

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